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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/788,540	02/21/2001	Shigeru Fujita	1484.1004	5606
21171	7590	04/20/2006	EXAMINER	
STAAS & HALSEY LLP SUITE 700 1201 NEW YORK AVENUE, N.W. WASHINGTON, DC 20005			EL HADY, NABIL M	
		ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER	
			2152	

DATE MAILED: 04/20/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/788,540	FUJITA, SHIGERU	
	Examiner Nabil M. El-Hady	Art Unit 2152	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 17 March 2006.
 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1 and 3-9 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1 and 3-9 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____. 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____.
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1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 2/2/2006 has been entered.

2. Claims 1 and 3-9 are pending in this application.

3. Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

The following phrases are not clearly understood, and rendering the corresponding claims vague or indefinite:

a) "receive input-output control ... from a server device driver and a server virtual I/O port", claim 4, lines 2-3. It is not clearly understood if the control is initiated from the device driver from the I/O port, from both, or from the device driver and communicated through the I/O port.

b) "transmit a client-side I/O device event to the server virtual I/O port", claim 4, lines 7-8. It is not clearly understood if the event is transmitted to the virtual I/O port or to the device driver through the virtual I/O port.

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4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 1, 3-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Morgan et al. (5,220,674), hereinafter "Morgan".

7. As to claims 1, 3, 4, and 9, Morgan discloses a client/server system (Fig. 1) comprising a server (col. 3, lines 27-29) comprising software to generate operating instructions for a client-side I/O device (col. 3, lines 17-19, and Fig. 1), a device driver at the server (50, Fig. 1), a virtual I/O port to function at the server as client-side I/O port interface to the device driver (col. 3, lines 42-45, Fig. 1, Fig. 3, and Fig. 4) , a client (col. 3, lines 42-44, and Fig. 10) communicably connectable with the server, a client-side device handler (Fig. 10), and a client-side I/O port (Fig. 10).

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8. As to claim 5, Morgan discloses at least one client-side I/O port, which is coupled to the client-side I/O device, and which is controlled by the device driver in the server (col. 3, lines 27-45; and Fig. 1)

9. As to claim 6, Morgan does not specifically disclose a bar code reader as the I/O device. However, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made that an I/O device may be any type of device that facilitates input from the user and output to the user. The concept of controlling such device from a server as disclosed by Morgan is not limited to a printer device and may be applied to any other I/O device. Moreover, both the concept and the advantages of utilizing a bar code reader as an I/O device is well known in the art. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the teachings of Morgan to include a bar code reader in order to enhance and make it easier for slot machine users to input/ output certain types of products to the system.

10. As to claim 7, Morgan discloses the client/server system, wherein the client and server communicate via a LAN (abstract).

11. As to claim 8, Morgan does not disclose the client and server communicate via the WWW. However, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made that nothing in the design of Morgan's system prevent that server of Fig. 1 be connected to the client printers of Fig. 1 via WWW according to what is known in the art at the time of the invention.

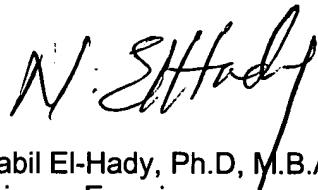
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12. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 3-9 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

13. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Nabil M. El-Hady whose telephone number is (571) 272-3963. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00 - 4:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Bunjob Jaroenchonwanit can be reached on (571) 272-3913. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



April 16, 2006

Nabil El-Hady, Ph.D, M.B.A.
Primary Examiner
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